



Gospel-Motivated Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18 and others

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In everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Main Point

Rightly understood, the gospel motivates us to continually give thanks to God, not only for His work in and through us, but for all things.

1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2:13; 3:19; 5:18

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
making mention of you in our prayers constantly.

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account.

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Whatever the context or
circumstance of our thanksgiving,
it should always be a giving
of thanks *to God*.

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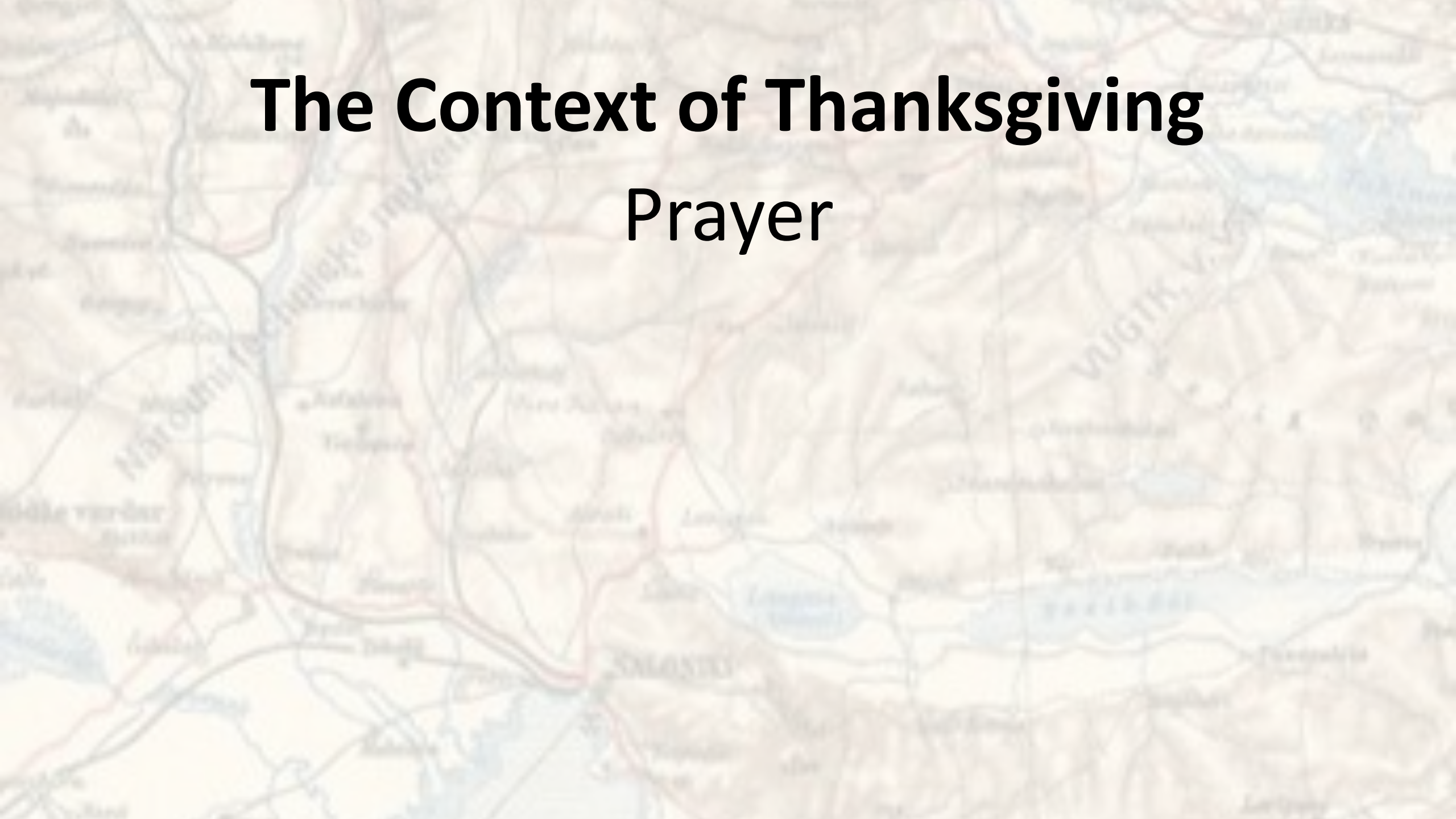
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In everything give thanks *to God*;
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Though there are specific contexts and circumstances in which we make it a point to give thanks to God, thanksgiving should be our mindset always and everywhere.



The Context of Thanksgiving Prayer

1 Thessalonians 1:2

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Ephesians 1:16

I do not cease giving thanks for you,
while making mention of you in my prayers.

Colossians 1:3

We give thanks to God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
praying always for you.

2 Timothy 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience
the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you
in my prayers night and day.

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I do not cease **giving thanks** for you,
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What is the connection to prayer?

Prayer “is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us.” (HC)

Psalm 116:17

To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And call upon the name of the LORD.

This is true not only because prayer is the primary context in which we give thanks to God but because prayer itself is an expression of dependence upon God. And acknowledgment of dependence is the fountainhead of thanksgiving.



The Context of Thanksgiving

Prayer

Personal reflection

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks;

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

You will not give thanks to God in everything if you are not personally reflecting on God's care for you and cultivating thanksgiving in your heart.

Psalm 86:12

I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever.

Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits.

Psalm 86:12

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Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

And **forget none of His benefits.**

If we take time to personally reflect upon the grace of Christ and counsel our souls to forget none of His benefits, our hearts will surely be moved to thanksgiving.



The Context of Thanksgiving

Prayer

Personal reflection

Interactions

1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2:13; 3:19

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For what **thanks** can we render **to God** for you in return for all
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Their shared thanksgiving surely did not occur in a vacuum -- it must have been the overflow of many interactions in which they shared the wonders of God together.

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.

Psalm 66:8 and 16

Bless our God, O peoples,
And sound His praise abroad.

Come and hear, all who fear God,
And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

If we pray continually with thanksgiving
and spend time in grateful personal
reflection, our gratitude toward God will
naturally overflow into conversations.

We will gladly tell of all His wonders
and give thanks!

Consider...

How do you cultivate an environment of thanksgiving?

You give thanks to God
in every environment.

Gospel-Motivated Thanksgiving

The context of thanksgiving.

The content of thanksgiving.



The Content of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for God's work in us.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers constantly...

...**knowing**, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason **we** also constantly **thank God** that when you received the word of God...you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But **we should always give thanks to God** for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Romans 6:17

But **thanks be to God** that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed.

The chief part of our thanksgiving to God ought to be expressions of deep gratitude for the manifestations of His grace in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Consider...

The content of our thanksgiving should instruct us as to the content of our prayers.

For what do you pray?



The Content of Thanksgiving

For God's work in us.

We give thanks for God's work
through us.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 and 8

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
making mention of you in our prayers constantly...

...bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love
and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you,
not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place
your faith toward God has gone forth.

Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all,
because your faith is being proclaimed
throughout the whole world.

2 Corinthians 2:14

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph
in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma
of the knowledge of Him in every place.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

When we consider the purpose for which
God has created and called us,
we ought to be moved to deep gratitude
that He has chosen to use us at all,
and we ought to give thanks for the work
He chooses to do through us.



The Content of Thanksgiving

For God's work in us.

For God's work through us.

Everything.

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There are many trials and evils
for which we ought not give thanks,
but *in* these trials and *amid* these evils
we ought always to give thanks.

We do not give thanks *for* everything,
but *in* everything there is always
content for thanksgiving.

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The context of thanksgiving.

The content of thanksgiving.

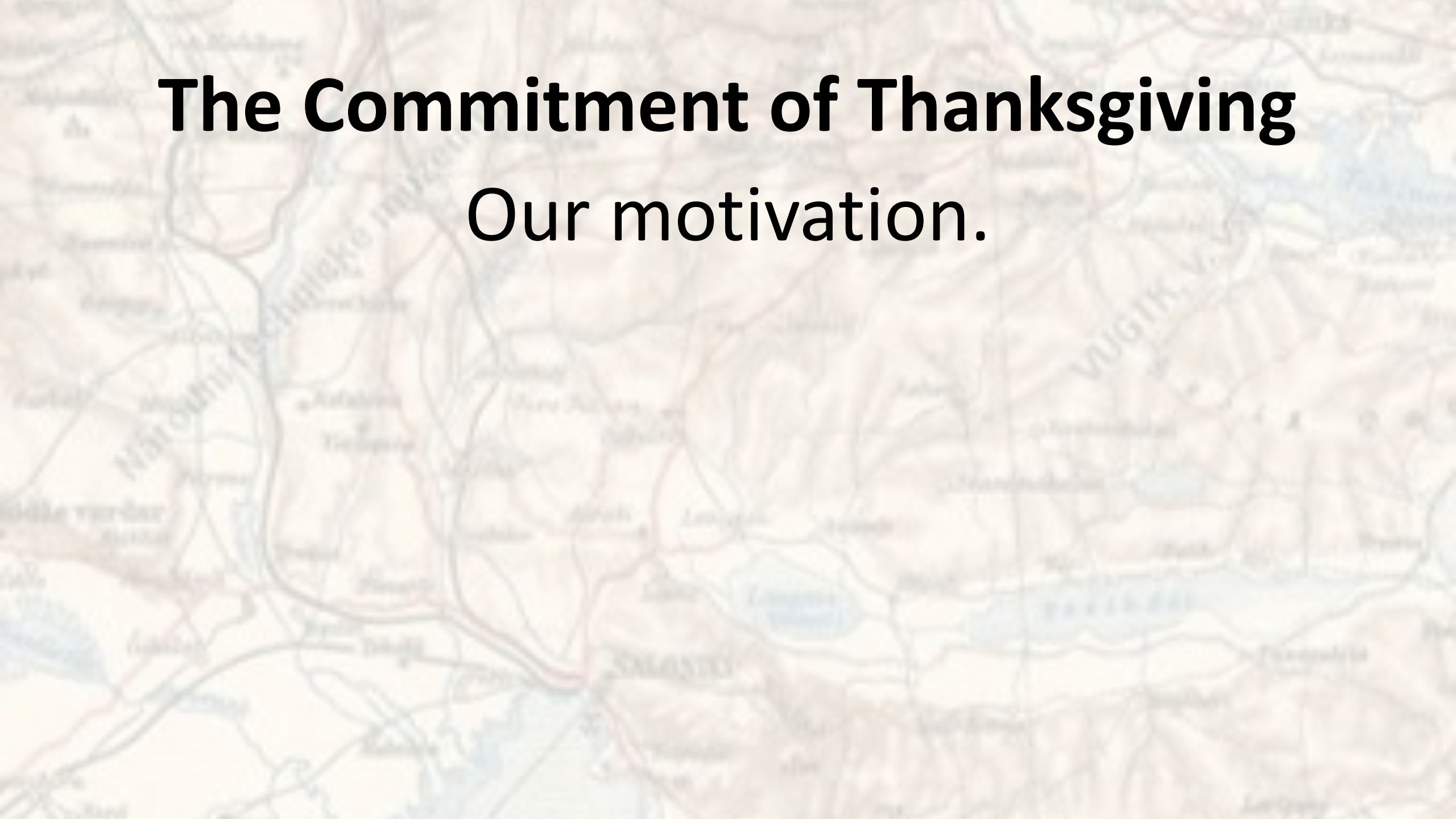
The commitment of thanksgiving.

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The Commitment of Thanksgiving

Our motivation.

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If we belong to God and understand His grace toward us, our hearts will greatly desire to please Him in all things.

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Our reason and motivation to give thanks to God in everything is found *in Christ Jesus*, in our identity in Him and in our considerations of His person and His work on our behalf.

Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am!

Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!



The Commitment of Thanksgiving

Our motivation.

Our determination.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything **give thanks**;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As a command, this will require
that we determine within ourselves,
in advance, to give thanks.

Luke 9:51

When the days were approaching for His ascension,
He was determined to go to Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Given the brokenness of this world
and the inevitability of trial,
thanksgiving in everything will
require our pre-determination
of faith in Christ and in Christ's
faithfulness in all things.

Conclusion

We are called to cultivate thankfulness.

This will require that we focus our thanksgiving on the right things.

This will require that we determine in advance to trust the Lord in all things.